

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base [which contains registration data including position data, image data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

[imaging means for obtaining an image;]

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus; [and]

selection means for selecting [image data from said data base which corresponds to the image obtained by said imaging means, said image data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the current position location detected by said location detection means, and said designation information corresponding to said image data for retrieving said additional information] from said remote database a plurality of image information corresponding to images defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images.

2. (Twice Amended) [An] The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reception means for receiving the image information [data and the designation information] and at least the corresponding location data via a computer network.

3. (Amended) [An] The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said reception means has a portable telephone function and is connected to said computer network via a telephone line.

4. (Amended) [An] The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the [designation information] corresponding location data is a URL for specifying information stored in a server of a world wide web build up on the Internet.

5. (Twice Amended) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base [which contains registration data including position data, image data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

[obtaining an image;]

detecting the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; [and]

selecting [image data from said data base which corresponds to the image obtained, said image data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location of the information retrieval apparatus, and designation information corresponding to said image data for retrieving said additional information] from

said remote database a plurality of image information corresponding to images defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images.

6. (Three Times Amended) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base [which contains registration data including at least position data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus; [and]

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the data base;

selection means for selecting from said remote database a plurality of image information corresponding to images defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images to determine a matching image;

first receiving means for receiving designation information corresponding to said matching image for retrieving additional information corresponding to said obtained image;

checking means for checking whether user's manual operation ~~be~~ is needed to acquire said additional information corresponding to said designation information;

second receiving means for receiving additional information based on the designation information; and

displaying means for displaying said additional information.

[and

selection means for selecting data from said data base which corresponds to said detected current position location of said information retrieval apparatus, said selected data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location, said designation information corresponding to said selected data for retrieving said additional information.]

7. (New) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

selection means for selecting from said remote database a plurality of image information corresponding to images defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

reception means for receiving said selected image information;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images; and

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said obtained image.

8. (New) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

selection means for selecting from said remote database a plurality of image information corresponding to images defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

reception means for receiving said selected image information;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images; and

displaying means for displaying said received image after performing a matching process using said obtained image.

9. (New) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

selecting from said remote database a plurality of image information corresponding to images defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

receiving said selected image information;

obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images; and

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said obtained image.

10. (New) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;
transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;
selecting from said remote database a plurality of image information corresponding to images defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

receiving said selected image information;
obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images; and
displaying a matching image after performance of the comparing step.

11. (New) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

12. (New) The information retrieval method according to claim 5,
wherein when it is determined that one of said selected images matches said obtained image,
additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

13. (New) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said
obtained image and that a user's manual operation is necessary, additional information
corresponding to said one of said selected images and information input by said user's manual
operation is provided.

14. (New) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said
obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is
provided.

15. (New) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said
obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is
provided.

16. (New) The information retrieval method according to claim 9,
wherein when it is determined that one of said selected images matches said obtained image,
additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

17. (New) The information retrieval method according to claim 10,
wherein when it is determined that one of said selected images matches said obtained image,
additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.